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06/28/00 U.S. PTO

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(Large Entity)

Docket No.
INTL-0413-US (P8908)

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

jc859 U.S. PTO 09/605799 06/28/00

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111 and 37 C.F.R. 1.53 is the patent application of:

OLEG B. RASHKOVSKIY and BEN S. WYMORE

For: **ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE WITH NEW SEASON SERIES FEATURE**

Enclosed are:

- ☒ Certificate of Mailing with Express Mail Mailing Label No. **EL541982885US**
- ☒ **Five (5)** sheets of drawings.
- ☐ A certified copy of a application.
- ☒ Declaration ☒ Signed. ☐ Unsigned.
- ☒ Power of Attorney
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Other: **Recordation Form Cover Sheet; Assignment and check for $40.**

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra		Rate	Fee
Total Claims	20	- 20 =	0	x	$18.00	$0.00
Indep. Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x	$78.00	$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) ☐						$0.00
					BASIC FEE	$690.00
					TOTAL FILING FEE	$690.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **$690.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **20-1504** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
  - ☐ Charge the amount of as filing fee.
  - ☒ Credit any overpayment.
  - ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
  - ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: **June 28, 2000**

Signature

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Customer No. 21906

INTL-0413-US
(P8908)

APPLICATION

FOR

UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

TITLE: ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE WITH NEW SEASON SERIES FEATURE

INVENTORS: OLEG B. RASHKOVSKIY and BEN S. WYMORE

Express Mail No.: EL541982885US

Date: June 28, 2000

ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE
WITH NEW SEASON SERIES FEATURE

Background

This invention relates generally to electronic programming guides for facilitating the selection and recording of television programs.

Electronic programming guides may display a grid of television program times on one axis and channels or service providers on another axis. The grid may include particular programs listed by channel and time of presentation. The user can select any of the programs in the electronic programming guide for automatic viewing or recording. This may commonly be done by simply mouse clicking on the particular program listing to cause the program to be automatically tuned or automatically scheduled for recording or subsequent (future) viewing.

Television programs often run through a predefined series of shows called a season. A given television program may appear at a given time on a given day for a plurality of weeks. After the end of the season, a series of reruns of the previous programs may be broadcast. Thus, television program series generally have a season premiere and a season finale that constitute the first and last programs in a given series.

In many cases, users wish to determine when the season premiere will be broadcast since the users may have endured a extended period of reruns, conventionally over the summer. A user may wish to be sure to watch the premiere episode and to thereafter watch the program regularly until reruns start again.

Thus, there is a need for an electronic programming guide that facilitates the selection of season premieres and the capture of ensuing episodes.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a graphical user interface in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a graphical user interface in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a flow chart for software in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a front elevational view of a processor-based system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a block diagram of a processor-based system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description

Referring to Figure 1, an electronic programming guide graphical user interface 10 may include a series of program

times corresponding to a current time and date and a series of channels or television service providers such as ABC, CBS, etc. A plurality of programs may be listed by time and service provider such as "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" listed from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on ABC.

Conventionally, the user may mouse select a given episode for viewing or recording. In addition, the user may mouse select a future episode to cause that episode to be automatically tuned in at its scheduled broadcast time.

The graphical user interface 10 includes a plurality of icons 12, 14 and 16. The icon 12 may be selected by the user to automatically display any upcoming season premieres. That is, if the user maneuvers the highlighting 13 over the icon 12 and then mouse clicks on the season premiere icon 12, the user is automatically provided information about all upcoming season premieres. Similarly, an ongoing series icon 14 may be provided and a recommended show icon 16 may be provided.

Each of the icons 12, 14 and 16 may be utilized to preferentially record a given series of programs. Thus, the icons 12, 14 and 16 may be associated with a record bar 11 of the graphical user interface 10. The user may mouse click on a given program and then the record bar 11 to record the program automatically in one embodiment.

Similarly, the user may select one of the icons 12, 14 or 16 to automatically record an entire season of

television programs. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, when the user selects the season premiere icon 12, the graphical user interface 18, shown in Figure 2, may be displayed in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

The interface 18 may provide a listing of all the upcoming television program season premiere episodes. In this hypothetical case, four premiere episodes are upcoming on the dates indicated at 26. Each episode 24 of the series may be scheduled for recording as indicated at 22 or for addition to the user's favorites list as indicated at 23. By mouse clicking on a block 20 that is highlighted, as indicated at 25, the user may cause a check mark 27 or 29 to appear to indicate the user's selection of a particular show 24 for either recording or addition to the user's favorites. Other selection systems may also be used.

When a program is selected for recording, not only is the premiere episode recorded, but all the episodes in the ongoing series may be automatically recorded. This is accomplished using software that is cognizant of (or is able to become cognizant of) the season schedule for the series through its finale.

The user can also mouse select the icon 28 to obtain more information about a given series. The additional information may include program times, channels,

recommendations, preview clips, textual descriptions and rerun schedules, as examples.

Thus, in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the user has selected the Sopranos series for recording as indicated by the check mark 27 and NYPD Blue series for addition to the favorites as indicated by the check mark 29. Thus, all episodes of the upcoming series of Sopranos programs will be automatically recorded and all episodes of the NYPD Blue program are added to the user's favorites. The user's favorites may be indicated by highlighting on the electronic programming guide as the shows appear in one embodiment.

Referring to Figure 3, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the season record software 30 initially displays the graphical user interface 10, as indicated at block 32, and particularly provides the icon 12. If the user selects the season premiere icon 12, the software waits for a show selection (diamond 34) after displaying the graphical user interface 18. When a particular show is selected, for example by mouse clicking on the highlighted block 20, the show schedule may be acquired as indicated in block 36. The show schedule may be stored in a database associated with the software 30.

Alternatively, the season series schedule may be acquired through an Internet web site that is available for this purpose. Upon selection of the record feature, the

Internet web site is automatically accessed and the program schedule automatically downloaded and stored in a database associated with software 30.

Each of the episodes is scheduled for automatic recording when broadcast on the indicated channel at the indicated time (block 38). Thereafter, the user may be given an acknowledgement on the user's display screen indicating that the season series has been scheduled for automatic recording (block 40).

Referring to Figure 4, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the software 30 may be stored on a set-top box 42 that rests atop a television receiver 41 having a display screen 52. A remote control unit 44 interface 50 may control the television receiver 44, through its interface 48 and the set-top box 42, through its interface 46. The interfaces 50, 48 and 46 may be wireless interfaces such as infrared interfaces in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

A plurality of highlight navigation keys 45 and a select key 47 may be provided on the remote control unit 44 for selection of the various icons shown in the graphical user interfaces of Figure 1 and Figure 2. Particularly, the navigation keys 45 may be utilized to move the highlighting 13 or 25 to the desired entry that may be selected using the select button 47.

Referring to Figure 5, the set-top box 42 may include a processor 54 coupled to a bridge 56. The bridge 56 may couple a graphics accelerator 60 and a system memory 58. The graphics accelerator 60 may be coupled to the television receiver 41 in one embodiment of the present invention.

The bridge 56 may also couple to a bus 64 that may couple to a television tuner/capture card 66. The card 66 may be coupled to a video source such as a cable or satellite receiver as two examples. The bus 64 may also be coupled to a bridge 68. The bridge 68 may be coupled to a hard disk drive 70 that stores the software 30.

The bridge 68 may also be coupled to a bus 74. The bus 74 couples a serial input/output (SIO) device 76 and a basic input/output system (BIOS) storage 82. The device 76 in turn is coupled to the interface 46 that communicates with the remote control unit 44. Particularly, the remote control unit 44 may includes its own interface 50 coupled to a controller 78. The controller 78 receives input commands from a keypad 80.

While the present invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate numerous modifications and variations therefrom. It is intended that the appended claims cover all such modifications and variations as fall within the true spirit and scope of this present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface indicating a season premiere episode of a season series of television programs; and

in response to the selection of the episode through said interface, automatically recording the season series.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein providing a graphical user interface includes providing an electronic programming guide.

3. The method of claim 2 including providing a graphical user interface that displays a plurality of upcoming season premiere episodes.

4. The method of claim 1 including enabling the user to select the episode to automatically tune to all of the programs in the season series.

5. The method of claim 1 including storing information about the season series in a database.

6. The method of claim 1 including acquiring information about the season series over the Internet.

7. The method of claim 6 including, in response to the selection of the episode, automatically acquiring a schedule for said season series over the Internet.

8. An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

provide a graphical user interface indicating a season premiere episode of a season series of television programs; and

in response to the selection of the episode through said interface, automatically record the season series.

9. The article of claim 8 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide an electronic programming guide.

10. The article of claim 9 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide a graphical user interface that displays a plurality of upcoming season premiere episodes.

11. The article of claim 8 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to automatically tune to all of the programs in the season series.

12. The article of claim 8 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to obtain information about a season series from a database.

13. The article of claim 8 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to acquire information about a season series over the Internet.

14. The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to automatically acquire a schedule of said season series over the Internet.

15. A system comprising:

a processor;

a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing instructions that enable said processor to generate a graphical user interface indicating a season premiere episode of a season series of television programs and, in response to the selection of the episode through said interface, automatically record the season series.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable the processor to generate an electronic programming guide.

17. The system of claim 15 including an interface coupled to said processor for wireless communications, said system further including a remote control unit that communicates with said interface.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable the processor to generate a graphical user interface that displays a plurality of upcoming season premiere episodes.

19. The system of claim 15 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable the processor to automatically tune to all of the programs in the season series.

20. The system of claim 15 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable the processor to automatically acquire information about the season series over the Internet.

ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE
WITH NEW SEASON SERIES FEATURE

Abstract of the Disclosure

An electronic programming guide may enable the user to identify season premiere episodes. Moreover, using simple mouse click operations, the user may select a season series for automatic recording.

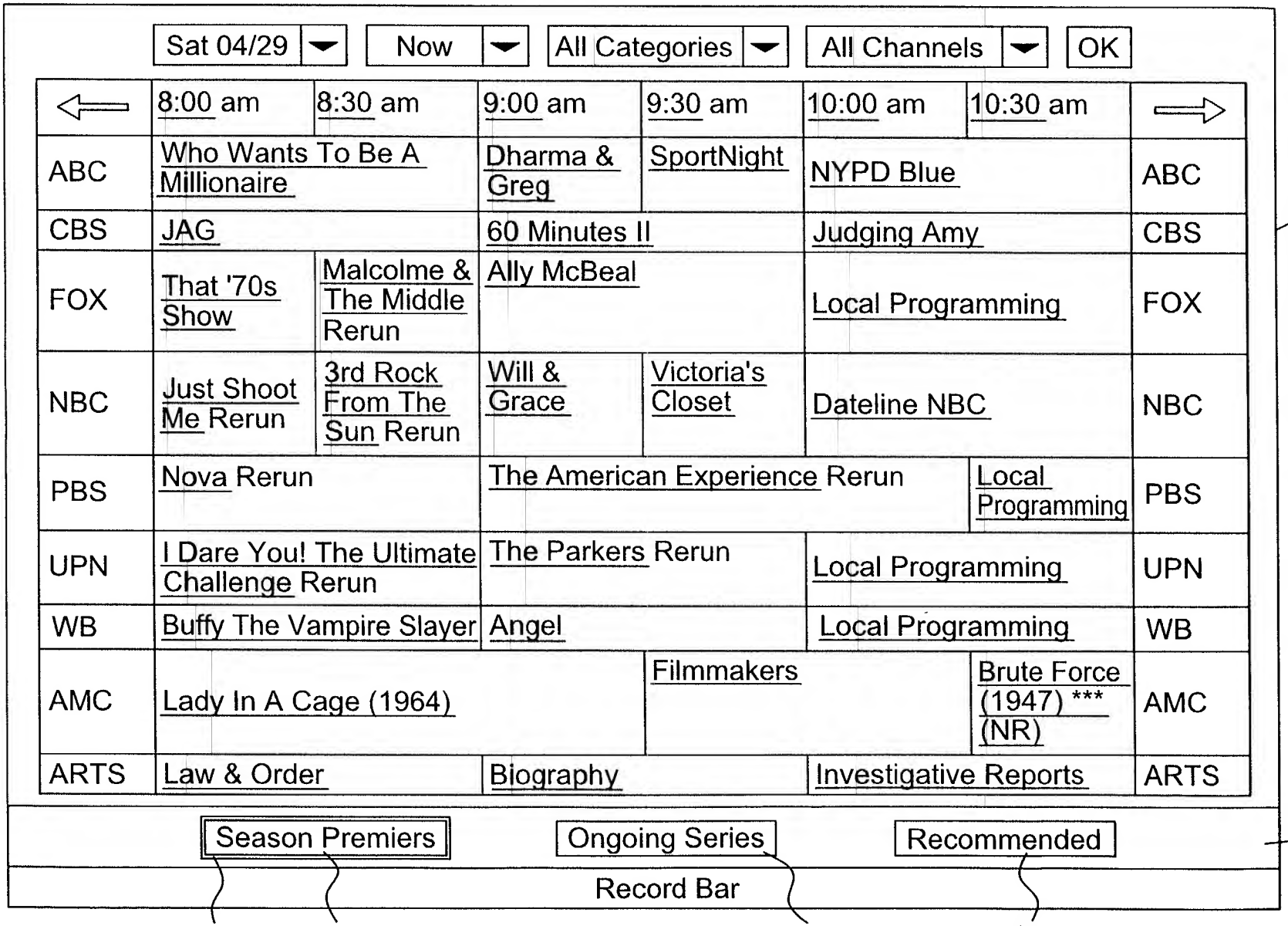
Sat 04/29
Now
All Categories
All Channels
OK
8:00 am
8:30 am
9:00 am
9:30 am
10:00 am
10:30 am
ABC
Who Wants To Be A Millionaire
Dharma & Greg
SportNight
NYPD Blue
ABC
CBS
JAG
60 Minutes II
Judging Amy
CBS
FOX
That '70s Show
Malcolme & The Middle Rerun
Ally McBeal
Local Programming
FOX
NBC
Just Shoot Me Rerun
3rd Rock From The Sun Rerun
Will & Grace
Victoria's Closet
Dateline NBC
NBC
PBS
Nova Rerun
The American Experience Rerun
Local Programming
PBS
UPN
I Dare You! The Ultimate Challenge Rerun
The Parkers Rerun
Local Programming
UPN
WB
Buffy The Vampire Slayer
Angel
Local Programming
WB
AMC
Lady In A Cage (1964)
Filmmakers
Brute Force (1947) *** (NR)
AMC
ARTS
Law & Order
Biography
Investigative Reports
ARTS
Season Premiers
Ongoing Series
Recommended
Record Bar
10
11
13
12
14
16

FIG. 1

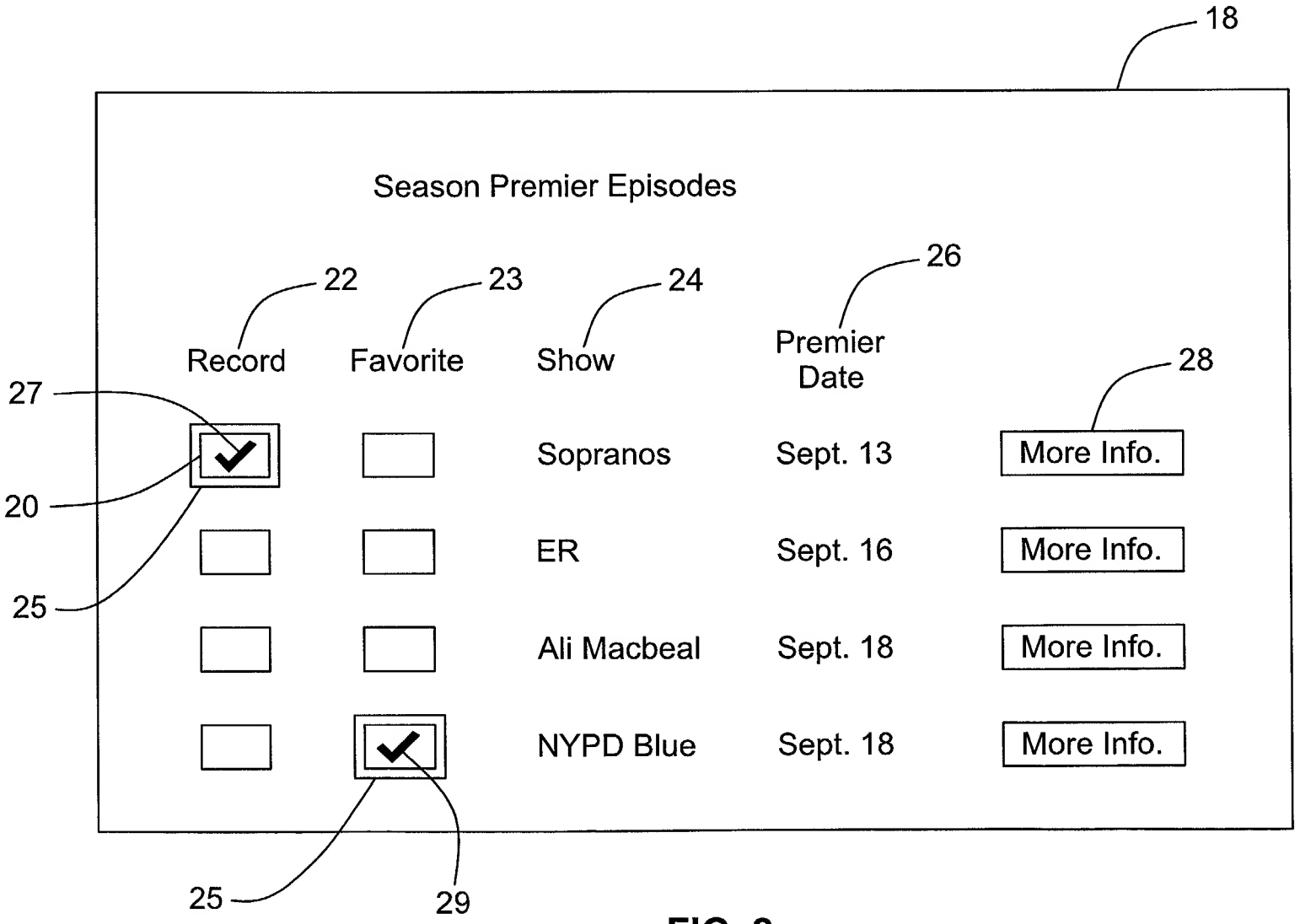
18
Season Premier Episodes
22
23
24
26
Record
Favorite
Show
Premier Date
28
27
Sopranos
Sept. 13
More Info.
20
ER
Sept. 16
More Info.
25
Ali Macbeal
Sept. 18
More Info.
NYPD Blue
Sept. 18
More Info.
25
29

FIG. 2

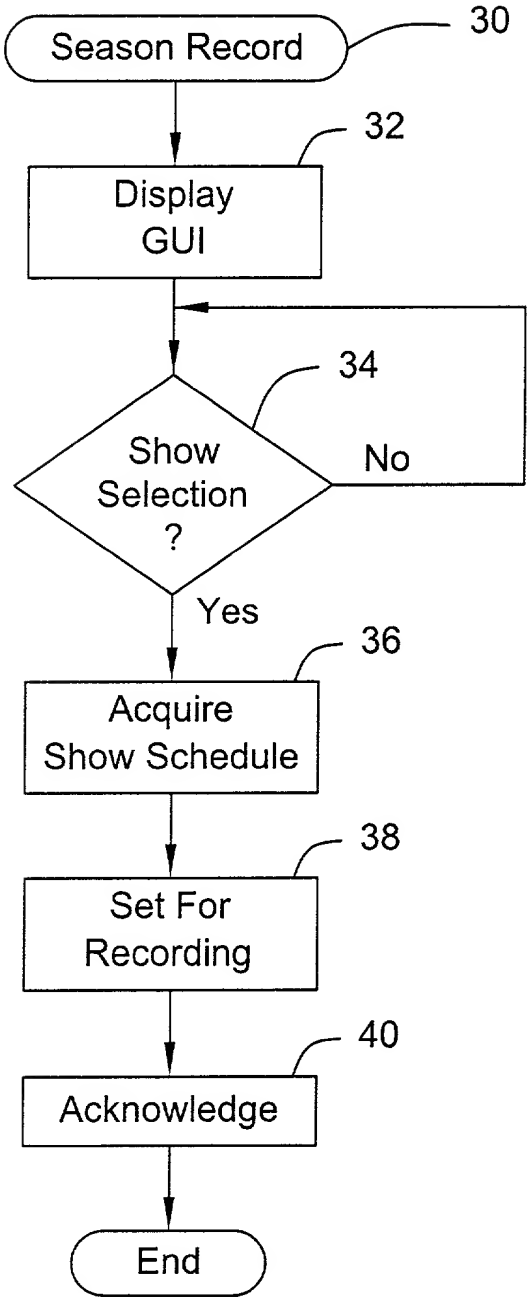
Season Record
30
32
Display GUI
34
Show Selection ?
No
Yes
36
Acquire Show Schedule
38
Set For Recording
40
Acknowledge
End

FIG. 3

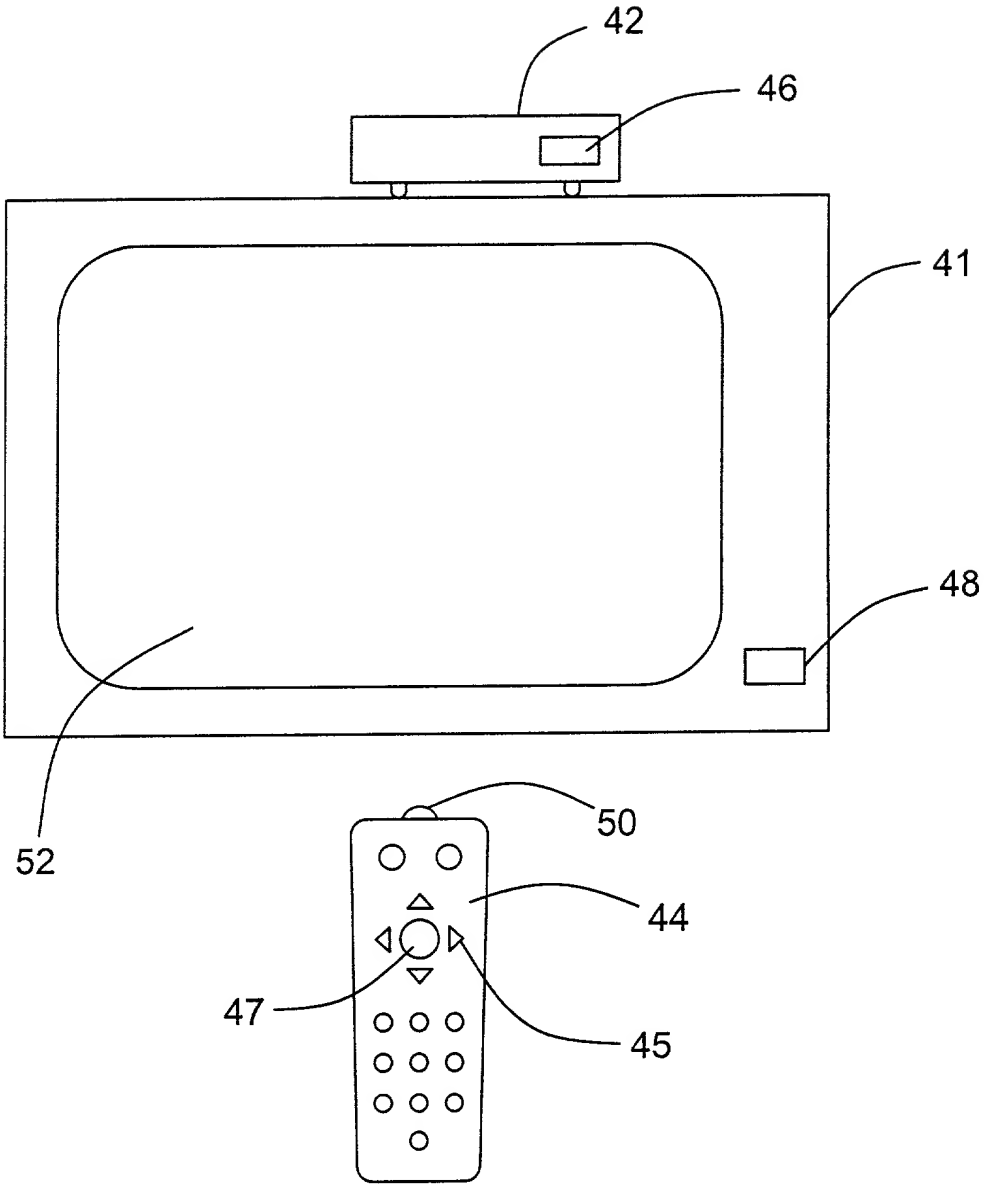

FIG. 4

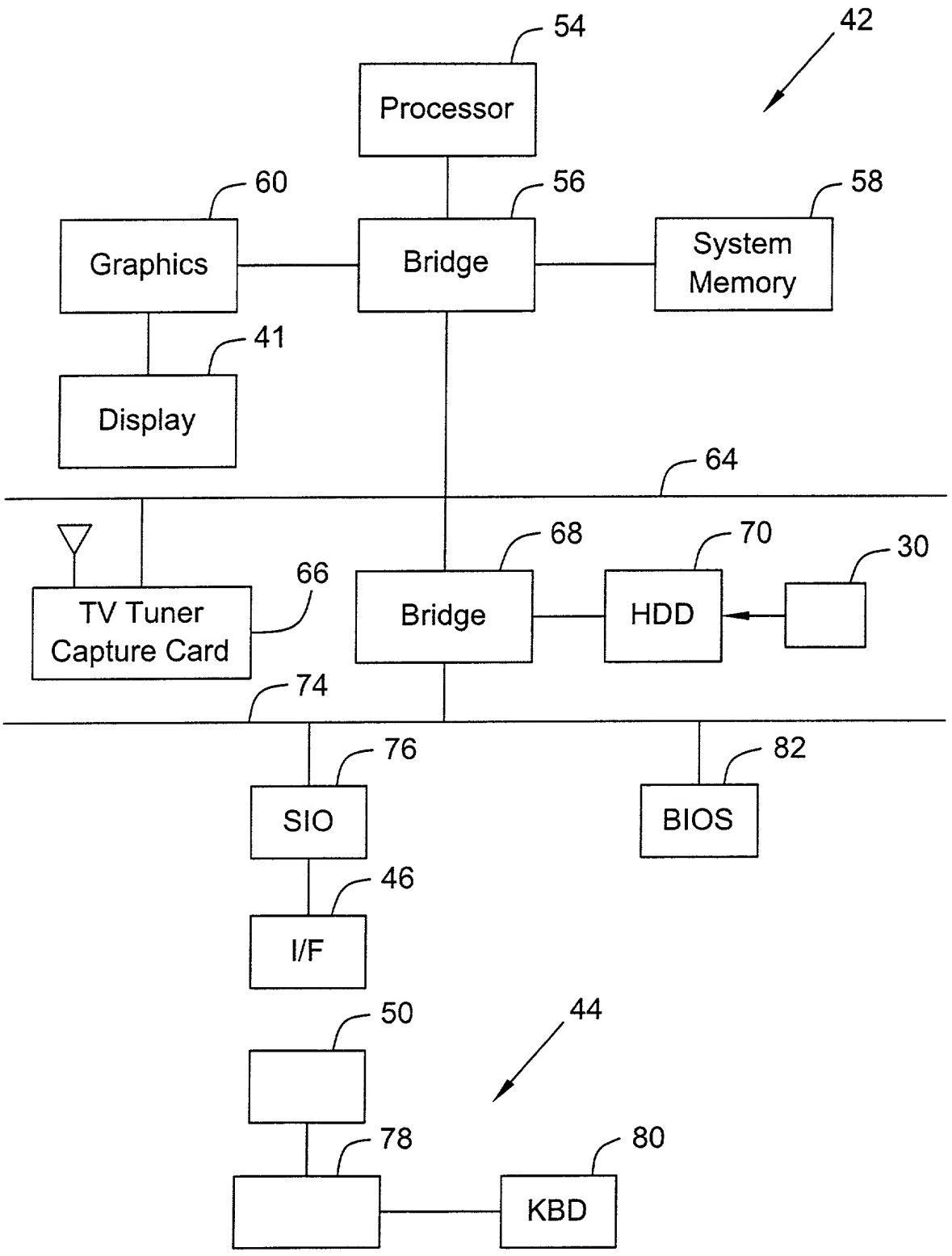
42
54
Processor
60
56
58
Graphics
Bridge
System Memory
41
Display
64
68
70
30
66
TV Tuner Capture Card
Bridge
HDD
74
76
82
SIO
BIOS
46
I/F
50
44
78
80
KBD

FIG. 5

Attorney's Docket No.: INTL-0413 -US (P8908) PATENT

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE WITH NEW SEASON SERIES FEATURE

the specification of which

X	is attached hereto.
	was filed on _____ as
	United States Application Number _____
	or PCT International Application Number _____
	and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate Issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):			Priority Claimed	
Number	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
Number	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
Number	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of the United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Number)	Filing Date	(Status-patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Number)	Filing Date	(Status-patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994; Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779 and Dan C. Hu, Reg. No. 40,025 my patent attorneys, of TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C., with offices located at 8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100, Houston, TX 77024, telephone (713) 468-8880, and Joseph R. Bond, Reg. No. 36,458; Richard C. Calderwood, Reg. No. 35,468; Sean Fitzgerald, Reg. No. 32,027; David J. Kaplan, Reg. No. 41,105; Leo V. Novakoski, Reg. No. 37,198; Naomi Obinata, Reg. No. 39,320; Thomas C. Reynolds, Reg. No. 32,488; Steven P. Skabrat, Reg. No. 36,279; Howard A. Skaist, Reg. No. 36,008; Steven C. Stewart, Reg. No. 33,555; Raymond J. Werner, Reg. No. 34,752; and Charles K. Young, Reg. No. 39,425; my patent attorneys, of INTEL CORPORATION; with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Timothy N. Trop, TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C., 8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100, Houston, TX 77024 and direct telephone calls to Timothy N. Trop, (713) 468-8880.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor: **BEN S. WYMORE**	
Inventor's Signature:	Date: 6/19/00
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